

year 1997-98 which would also serve Uttar Pradesh includes the following Express trains :

1. Secunderabad-Nizamuddin Weekly Rajdhani
2. Bangalore-Nizamuddin Weekly Express via Hubli
3. Ranchi-Delhi biweekly Express
4. Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin biweekly Express
5. Gorakhpur-Dehradun biweekly Express
6. Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Weekly Express
7. Delhi-Faizabad/Muzaffarpur Weekly Express
8. Surat-Patna Weekly Express
9. Pune-Nizamuddin Weekly Express.

New Railway Line

5318. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total mileage of new railway lines laid down in various parts of the country during the last three years till date;

(b) the total mileage out of that laid down in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for laying new railway lines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 217 kms. new line have been laid during last 3 years.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are as under :—

(i) *Kapadvanj-Modasa line* is already under construction. State Govt. has requested for higher allocation to speed up the work. Accordingly, budget allotment of Rs. 5 crs. would be raised to Rs. 10 crs. after the additional budgetary support is received.

(ii) *Extension of railway line from Veraval to Kodinar*—Survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be taken up once the survey report becomes available.

(iii) *Construction of a coastal line from Veraval to Bhavnagar via Pipavav and Alang*—survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be taken up once the survey report becomes available.

(iv) *Extension of line from Mahuva to Pipavav*—This has already been included in scope of project of gauge

conversion of Surendernagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav.

[Translation]

Strike By MTNL Employees

5319. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in protest against the murder of an employee of this nlgam are on strike since 21-4-1997;

(b) if so, the details of the demands of these employees;

(c) the action taken against the officers and employees found guilty;

(d) the amount of loss of revenue incurred by the Nigam during this strike; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officials for not handling the situation properly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Some staff members staged lunch hour demonstrations at Khurshid Lai Bhavan from 21.4.97 to 25.4.97.

(b) The demands were :

1. Hand over the case to CBI for investigation.

2. Arrest of Sh. D.K. Aggarwal, D.E. (Outdoor), Kidwai Bhavan.

3. Immediate financial assistance of Rs. 5/6 lacs to the mother of deceased.

(c) The matter is still under investigation by the Delhi Police.

(d) The agitation by the employees was restricted to lunch time and therefore there was no loss of productivity and revenue.

(e) The matter is still under investigation by the Delhi Police and the action would be taken after the receipt of the Police report.

Minerals in Gujarat

5320. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are adequate and large number of mineral deposits in some States including Gujarat especially in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to explore the minerals or to nationalise the mines in Gujarat;

(d) Whether the Government have received any proposals regarding the nationalisation of mines from some